

~~TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY~~

July 5, 1971

SIT TO 39

SEND DIRECTLY TO AIRCRAFT, TAIL NUMBER 53118

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

TO: HENRY A. KISSINGER
FROM: ALEXANDER M. HAIG, JR.

Our friend delivered a written response at 5:15 p.m. Washington time today (July 5). The response was indefinite, suggesting delay from September to some mutually acceptable time closer to the end of the year, for example the end of November or December providing by that time all that is necessary is done. Note says final time for the event and its publication could be pinpointed subsequently assuming progress in other preparations toward meeting the understanding you discussed with messenger June 30, the whole scenario contingent upon nothing occurring in the interim which would make the situation unfavorable or jeopardize positive results.

The foregoing appears at best to be a holding action which seeks both delay and further progress in areas of particular interest, with such progress a pivotal factor. I will not discuss this message with anyone, pending further guidance from you since response is somewhat different than anticipated and I want to be absolutely sure that you have had an opportunity to assess its implications while on your trip. I will not contact messenger until I hear from you. Please acknowledge upon receipt.